

**WGST 436b/ HSHM 446b/ HIST 445b**  
**THE WOMEN=S HEALTH MOVEMENT IN THE 1970s**  
**Naomi Rogers, Women=s and Gender Studies Program**  
**and Section of the History of Medicine**  
[naomi.rogers@yale.edu](mailto:naomi.rogers@yale.edu) Office: WLH 316

**Spring 2003**  
**Th 1.30-3.20**

This seminar will examine the strengths, weaknesses and legacy of the American women=s health movement of the 1970s, placed in its social and political context. Topics will include struggles to legalize birth control and abortion; protests over the dangers of the pill, sterilization abuse, medicalized childbirth, domestic violence, pornography, and sex-segregated medical training; and efforts to create an alternative feminist health care system. We will also explore links between feminist health activism and the civil rights, welfare rights and gay liberation movements.

***Required readings:***

- \* Susan Brownmiller In Our Time: Memoir of a Revolution (Random House/ Dial)
- \* Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A History of Women Healers (Feminist Press)
- \* Sandra Morgen Into Our Own Hands: The Women=s Health Movement in the United States, 1969-1990 (Rutgers)
- \* Readings packet at York Copy Center

***Recommended background readings:***

Flora Davis Moving the Mountain: The Women=s Movement in America Since 1960  
(University of Illinois)

Ruth Rosen The World Split Open: How the Modern Women=s Movement Changed America (Penguin)

*Books are available at Book Haven and are on reserve at CCL*

***Requirements:***

- 15% Short paper (5 pp) due Wednesday Feb 5 by 5 pm
- 20% Short paper (6-7 pp) due Wednesday Feb 26 by 5 pm
- 45% Research paper (15-20 pp) due Friday May 2 by 5 pm
- 20% Class participation

**WGST 436b/ HSHM 446b/ HIST 445b**  
**THE WOMEN=S HEALTH MOVEMENT IN THE 1970s**

**N. Rogers**  
**S 2003**

***WEEK 1***

**Jan 16      Introduction: AI Am Woman, Hear Me Roar@**

*Handouts*

Photographs (1951-1959)  
AWives and Lovers@ (1964)  
AI=m Gonna to be an Engineer@ (1970)  
AI Am Woman, Hear Me Roar@ (1972)  
AThe Pill@ (1975)  
Robin Morgan ABarbarous Rituals@ (1970)  
Florence Haseltine Woman Doctor (1976) extract  
Gloria Steinem AIf Men Could Menstruate@ (1978)  
Gary Trudeau Doonsbury (extracts)  
AWomen=s Liberation is Witchcraft!!!@ (2002)

***WEEK 2***

**Jan 23      We Are Furious (Female)**

Helen Gurley Brown (1967) in PACKET  
Robin Morgan AWITCH@ (1969) in PACKET  
Ellen Cantarow, et al AI am Furious (Female) (1969) in PACKET  
Frances Beale ADouble Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female@ (1970) in PACKET  
Laura Lederer AWomen Have Seized the Executive Offices of Grove Press Because...@  
(1970, 1980) in PACKET  
Vivian Gornick AOn the Progress of Feminism@ (1970) in PACKET  
Margaret Shook AComplaint@ (1972) in PACKET  
Brownmiller In Our Time 1-34

***WEEK 3***

**Jan 30      Seizing Our Bodies**

AGriswold v. Connecticut@ (1965) in PACKET  
Barbara Seaman The Doctors= Case Against the Pill (1969, 1995) extracts in PACKET  
BWHBC Our Bodies Ourselves (1971) extracts in PACKET  
Joanna Clark AMotherhood@ (1970) in PACKET  
Interview with Mirtha Quintanales (1989) in PACKET  
Lorraine Rothman AProcedures@ (1978) & Lolly Hirsch AReview@ (1976) in PACKET  
Ellen Frankfort Vaginal Politics (1972) extract in PACKET

cont.

Interviews with Barbara, Seaman, Elana Seaman and Shira Seaman (1999) in PACKET  
Morgen Into Our Own Hands, chp.s 1 & 2  
Brownmiller In Our Time 35-58, 59-101

***WEEK 4***

***\* first short paper (5 pages) due Wednesday Feb 5 by 5 pm***

**Feb 6            Yogurt, the Speculum and Feminist Health Activism**

Interviews with Alice Wolfson & Belita Cowan (1999) in PACKET  
Byllye Avery "Black Women=s Health: A Conspiracy of Silence@ (1989) in PACKET  
AWomen and the Health System@ and AHalf of Brooklyn@ (1972) in PACKET  
Julia Barfoot AFree Health for Women by Women@ (1973) in PACKET  
AA Report from Women=s Community Health Center@ (1977) in PACKET  
Gena Corea The Hidden Malpractice (1977) extracts in PACKET  
Morgen Into Our Own Hands, chp. 3  
Brownmiller In Our Time 167-193

***WEEK 5***

**Feb 13            Abortion Before and After Roe v. Wade**

Abortion statistics in PACKET  
Whoopi Goldberg (2001) in PACKET  
Jane Hodgson (1999) in PACKET  
McCorvey with Meisler I Am Roe (1994) extracts in PACKET  
Edward Pohlman AAbortion Dogmas Needing Research Scrutiny@ (1971) in PACKET  
Beverly Padilla AChicanas and Abortion@ (1972) in PACKET  
ARoe v. Wade@ & ADoe v. Bolton@ (1973) in PACKET  
Hern & Andrikopoulous Abortion in the Seventies (1977) extracts in PACKET  
Morgen Into Our Own Hands, chp. 4  
Brownmiller In Our Time 102-135

***WEEK 6***

**Feb 20            The Politics of Orgasm**

Dana Densmore AOn Celibacy@ (1968) in PACKET  
Susan Lyndon AThe Politics of Orgasm@ (1970) in PACKET  
Anna Koedt AThe Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm@ (1970) in PACKET  
BWHBC Our Bodies Ourselves (1971) extract in PACKET

cont.

Bette-Jane Raphael The Myth of the Male Orgasm & Input (1974) in PACKET  
Barbach For Yourself (1975) extracts in PACKET  
Marabel Morgan Total Joy (1976) extracts in PACKET  
Marriage and Sex statistics in PACKET  
Brownmiller In Our Time 194-258

***WEEK 7***

***\* second short paper (6-7 pages) due Wednesday Feb 26 by 5 pm***

**Feb 27      The Lavender Menace**

Martha Shelley Women of Lesbos (1971) in PACKET  
Abbott & Love Is Women=s Liberation a Lesbian Plot? (1971) in PACKET  
Radicalesbians Health Collective Lesbians and the Health Care System (1971) in  
PACKET  
Ann Shockley AA Meeting of the Sapphic Daughters (1987) in PACKET  
Nina Sabaroff Lesbian Sexuality (1975) in PACKET  
Karla Jay The Spirit is Liberationist But The Flesh Is... (1975) in PACKET  
Alistair Cooke AA >Proper Wedding= (1978) in PACKET  
Beverly Smith The Wedding (1979) in PACKET  
Chrissyos AI Don=t Understand Those Who Have Turned Away From Me (1981) in  
PACKET

***WEEK 8***

**Mar 6      Was Birth Control Genocide?**

"Birth Control Pills and Black Children: The Sisters Reply" (1968) in PACKET  
Toni Cade The Pill: Genocide or Liberation (1969) in PACKET  
John Hudgins Is Birth Control Genocide? (1972) in PACKET  
AHearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Health (1973) extract in PACKET  
Dorothy Roberts Killing the Black Body (1997) extract in PACKET  
Interviews with Helen Rodriguez-Trias & Charon Asetoyer (1999) in PACKET  
Jane Lawrence Indian Health Service and the Sterilization of Native American Women  
(2000) in PACKET  
Thomas Littlewood Politics of Population Control (1977) extract in PACKET  
Interviews with Helen Rodriguez-Trias & Laura Brainin-Rodriguez (1999) in PACKET  
Morgen Into Our Own Hands, chp. 7

***SPRING BREAK***

**WEEK 11**

**Mar 26      Pornography, Rape and Deep Throat**

Susan Brownmiller Speaking Out on Prostitution & radio show Men and Violence (1971) in PACKET

Robin Morgan Theory and Practice: Pornography and Rape (1974) in PACKET

Andrea Dworkin The Rape Atrocity and the Boy Next Door (1975 ) extract in PACKET

Andrea Dworkin Pornography and Grief (1978) in PACKET

Laura Lederer Take Back the Night extract (1980) in PACKET

Ellen Willis Feminism, Moralism, and Pornography (1979) in PACKET

Ellen Willis Hard to Swallow: Deep Throat (1973) in PACKET

Linda Lovelace Ordeal (1981) extracts in PACKET

Linda Lovelace Out of Bondage (1986) extracts in PACKET

Joe Bob Briggs Linda=s Life (2002) in PACKET

David Allyn Make Love Not War (2000) extract in PACKET

Brownmiller In Our Time 244-325

**WEEK 12**

**Apr 3 No Stirrups, No Knife: Spiritual Childbirth**

BWHBC Our Bodies Ourselves (1971) extract in PACKET

Letty Pogrebin Motherhood (1973) in PACKET

Barbara Katz Rothman In Which a Sensible Woman Persuades Her Doctor (1976) in PACKET

Barbara Katz Rothman In Labor (1982) extracts in PACKET

Suzanne Arms Immaculate Deception (1975) extracts in PACKET

Ina May Gaskin Spiritual Midwifery (1975) extracts in PACKET

Diana Scully Men Who Control Women=s Health (1980) extracts in PACKET

**WEEK 13**

**Apr 10      Why Would A Girl Go Into Medicine?**

Statistics in PACKET

Sarah Spalver Some Day I=ll be a Doctor (1967) extract in PACKET

Margaret A. Campbell Why Would A Girl Go Into Medicine? (1973) extracts in PACKET

Vivian Gornick Why Radcliffe Women Are Afraid of Success (1973) in PACKET

Gena Corea The Hidden Malpractice (1977) extract in PACKET

cont.

Perry Garfinkel AAs Doctors on TV, Women Still Battle the Old Cliches@ (2002) in  
PACKET

AJulia@ (2002) in PACKET

Morgen Into Our Own Hands, chp.s 5 & 6

***WEEK 14***

**Apr 17      Test-Tube Baby, Test-Tube Woman**

Shulamith Firestone The Dialectic of Sex (1972) in PACKET

Jon Turney Frankenstein=s Footsteps (1998) extract in PACKET

Barbara Katz Rothman AThe Meanings of Choice in Reproductive Technology@ (1984)  
in PACKET

Renate Klein ADoing It Ourselves: Self Insemination@ (1989) in PACKET

Ruth Hubbard APersonal Courage Is Not Enough: Some Hazards of Childbearing in the  
1980s@ (1989) in PACKET

Rayna Rapp AWomen=s Responses to Prenatal Diagnosis@ (1994) in PACKET

***WEEK 15***

**Apr 24      The 1980s and Beyond**

Ellen Hall AWho Gets Sick and Why?@ (1978) in PACKET

Anne Garland Women Activists (1988) extract in PACKET

Vivvyam C. Adair ABranded with Infamy: Inscriptions of Poverty and Class@ (2002) in  
PACKET

Kathryn Morgan AWomen and the Knife@ (1991) in PACKET

Arditti, Klein & Minden Test-Tube Women (1989) extract in PACKET

Elizabeth Karlin AWe Called It Kindness@ (1998) in PACKET

Laurie Shrage AFrom Reproductive Rights to Reproductive Barbie@ (2002) in PACKET

Hallie Iglehart AUnnatural Divorce of Spirituality and Politics@ (1978) in PACKET

Andy Smith AFor All Who Were Indian in a Former Life@ (2001) in PACKET

Nadine Strossen Defending Pornography (1995) extract in PACKET

Andrea Dworkin Heartbreak (2002) extract in PACKET

Susan M. Reverby AFeminism & Health@ (2002) in PACKET

Morgen Into Our Own Hands, chp.s 8 & 9

**\* Research paper due Friday May 2 at 5 pm**